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Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Thirteenth session

Summary record (partial)* of the 202nd meeting**
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 17 April 2015, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Cisternas Reyes

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* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.
** No summary records were issued for the 199th to 201st meetings.

This record is subject to correction.

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Any corrections to the records of the public meetings of the Committee at this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

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The discussion covered in the summary record began at 5 p.m.

Other matters

1. **Mr. Araya** (Secretary of the Committee), taking stock of the work accomplished, said that, at the current session, the Committee had adopted concluding observations on seven State party initial reports, decisions on two communications and a follow-up report on other decisions previously adopted under the Optional Protocol. Certain issues related to the rules of procedure and the treaty-body strengthening process had also been considered: rule 43 had been amended and, among other things, it had been decided that English and Spanish would be the working languages of the Committee, with Chinese, Arabic and French as additional working languages where a Committee member so required in his or her role as country rapporteur. That decision would be reviewed in 2016. The Committee had adopted its biennial report to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, along with its report on the thirteenth session. Lastly, the draft general comment on article 6, on women and girls with disabilities, had been endorsed and the working group had been asked to consult with all interested parties on the content of the general comment.

2. **Ms. Lee** (International Disability Alliance (IDA)) said that the representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities who had attended the session were grateful for the opportunity for an exchange with the Committee and deeply appreciated Committee members' commitment to seeking out and understanding the lived experiences and concerns of persons with disabilities in different countries.

3. The day of general discussion on the right to education of persons with disabilities had been a great success. The richness of the composition of panellists, and of the discussions, as well as the level of attendance and the number of written contributions, reflected the great need for further work on inclusive education. The live webcast, produced by IDA, had been watched by viewers from 52 countries.

4. She thanked the Committee members for their active part in the IDA campaign to raise the voices of women and girls with disabilities and empower them as agents of change.

5. **Ms. Lachowska** (Disability Council International) said that her organization had been glad to contribute to the Committee's work. It was aiming to expand its work in the regions and she hoped that its combination of advocacy in Geneva and work with grass-roots organizations and persons with disabilities in relevant countries would be of support to the Committee.

6. **Ms. Minkowitz** (World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry) said that she wished to thank the Committee for its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law and for its other standard-setting work, which was very meaningful for those working at the country level. She had been asked to mention that the support that had been offered by certain Committee members to one of her colleagues in the Netherlands had helped to influence the national human rights institution there and thus the process of law reform.

Future meetings

7. **Mr. Araya** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Committee's next session would take place from 17 August to 4 September 2015 and would be followed by the fourth meeting of the pre-sessional working group, from 7 to 11 September 2015. The Committee had appointed country rapporteurs for the States parties whose reports were to be considered then.

Closure of the session

8. After the customary exchange of courtesies, **the Chairperson** declared the thirteenth session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities closed.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.